

**PRESS STATEMENT:**

**Discrimination affecting large numbers of ethnic minorities and immigrants in the EU**

In Malta, 33% of immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa were discriminated due to their skin colour while 20% were discriminated due to their ethnic origin in four areas of daily life, namely when looking for work, at work, in access to housing, and when in contact with school authorities as a parent, in the five years before the survey. On the other hand, across Europe, the findings show that four out of 10 respondents felt discriminated against in one or more areas of daily life because of their ethnic or immigrant background during the same period of time.

These findings are the result of an EU-wide survey carried out by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in 2015 and 2016. This survey was based on a sample of over 25,500 randomly selected respondents with different ethnic minority and immigrant backgrounds.

In Malta, in the sphere of employment, 20% of respondents experienced discrimination based on their ethnic or immigrant background when looking for work in the 12 months before the survey, while 15% faced such discrimination at work. Similarly, 29% of the respondents in the EU28 who looked for a job and 22% of those at work in the five years before the survey experienced discrimination.

The findings show that very few victims of discrimination reported to anyone or made a complaint about the most recent incident of discrimination. Overall, one out of eight respondents (12%) across Europe reported or made a complaint, compared to 11% of the respondents with Sub-Saharan African backgrounds living in Malta.

The survey examined respondents' level of awareness of organisations that offer support and advice in case of discrimination. 27% of all respondents across Europe, and 12% of the respondents with Sub-Saharan African backgrounds in Malta are aware of such organisations.

In the context of this survey's results, the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) reiterates that it is illegal to discriminate against persons on the grounds of race/ethnic origin or to treat them less favourably. Persons who feel discriminated on the grounds of their race/ethnic origin in employment and in the provision of goods and services can bring this to the attention of NCPE which has the responsibility of investigating such complaints.

Moreover, in order to address this concern, NCPE provides training on diversity, equality and non-discrimination to departments/entities in the Public Sector and to any organisation in the private sector on request. During these sessions information is given on the rights and responsibilities related to the subject matter in order to empower participants to ward off discrimination and endorse diversity.

The NCPE reiterates that the participation of all citizens in the different spheres of society enhances diversity and enriches society. Discrimination inhibits diversity, not only limiting the potential of individuals but also the development and advancement of society at large. Social cohesion and integration of migrants and minorities are only possible if equal opportunities and equal treatment are safeguarded irrespective of race or ethnic origin.

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018**